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Progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in September 2014 (General Assembly resolution 69/2); an update on the development of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; recommendations on how to use, modify and improve existing United Nations mechanisms to achieve the ends of the Declaration; and specific proposals to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at the United Nations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Assembly resolution 69/2 entitled "Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples". The World Conference was held in September 2014, with the purpose of sharing perspectives on and best practices for the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including by pursuing the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007.

2. The report responds to the requests made in paragraphs 31 and 40 of the outcome document. In paragraph 31, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues[1] and Member States, to begin the development, within existing resources, of a system-wide action plan within the United Nations system to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration, and to report to the Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made.

3. In paragraph 40, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its seventieth session on the implementation of the outcome document and to submit at the same session recommendations on how to use, modify and improve existing United Nations mechanisms to achieve the ends of the Declaration, ways to enhance a coherent, system-wide approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration and specific proposals to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions, building on his report on ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on issues affecting them (A/HRC/21/24).

4. The present report is informed by responses received from Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations and representatives to a questionnaire circulated in accordance with a request by the Secretariat.[2] The report also takes into account information received in the context of the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held in May 2015.

II. Implementation of the outcome document

5. In the outcome document, Member States, first and foremost, but also the United Nations system and indigenous peoples themselves commit themselves to

[1] The Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues is a network of more than 40 United Nations system entities that endeavour to strengthen inter-agency cooperation throughout the system and to promote the human rights and well-being of indigenous peoples.

[2] Two different questionnaires were distributed in English, French, Russian and Spanish. One was sent by means of a note verbale to the 193 States Members of the United Nations on 12 March 2015. The other was disseminated to indigenous peoples' organizations on 5 March 2015 using the website of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and social media, reaching, for example, more than 6,000 people on social media. Member States and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were also asked to distribute the questionnaires among their networks. The deadline for inputs was 6 April 2015. A total of 12 responses from Member States and 425 responses from indigenous peoples' representatives and organizations were received.

multifaceted action. In order to make the outcome document fully operational, Member States, the United Nations system, indigenous peoples and other actors must pursue a wide range of measures at all levels. Such an effort will require significant attention and may also necessitate legal, institutional and programmatic reforms, as well as the development of new laws, policies and programmes.

6. The responses received from Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations noted that few specific actions had been taken in direct follow-up to the World Conference, possibly owing to the short time that had passed since the adoption of the outcome document. The small number of specific actions indicated a need to further disseminate the outcome document and to raise awareness of the World Conference and the Declaration, as well as of progress made in their implementation. Member States, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples themselves all have roles to play in that regard.

7. Some Member States have taken specific measures, including disseminating the outcome document and holding initial discussions with indigenous peoples on its operationalization. For example, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden held a meeting on 16 December 2014 on the follow-up to the World Conference, with the participation of indigenous representatives from the Arctic region, during which participants identified their key priorities for the implementation of the outcome document. In that connection, Finland had translated the outcome document into Finnish and three Sami languages and distributed it to governmental authorities and the Sami Parliament of Finland, among others. The United States of America hosted a consultation with indigenous peoples from that country on 26 February 2015 on the follow-up to the World Conference and discussed measures for the implementation of the priority provisions of the outcome document. Indigenous peoples referred to those two follow-up meetings in their responses to the questionnaire. Guatemala formed a coordinating committee, comprising various ministries that deal with indigenous issues, to disseminate the outcome document among State institutions for incorporation into their action plans. The Congo held a workshop in December 2014 to raise awareness about the outcome document of the World Conference.

8. While they did not mention specific activities initiated in follow-up to the World Conference, several Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations described current efforts at the national level with regard to the rights of indigenous peoples, consistent with the outcome document. The constitutions of various Member States contain provisions that recognize indigenous peoples and affirm their rights; El Salvador is the most recent State to have incorporated such provisions into its Constitution, which was amended in 2014 to recognize indigenous peoples for the first time. Numerous Member States have specific institutions dedicated to indigenous peoples at the national and local levels, as well as laws, policies and programmes that relate to commitments set out in the outcome document, including those relating to lands and territories, health, education; poverty reduction; violence against women and girls; the repatriation of ceremonial objects, access to justice, capacity-building, language and culture, and participation and consultations. However, some indigenous peoples' organizations indicated that gaps remained, even where relevant measures had been taken, and that Member States needed to make greater efforts to meet their commitments.

9. A number of Member States also referred to planned future activities relating to the World Conference. The Government of Mexico stated that it intended to create an inter-institutional group to follow up on its commitments set out in the outcome document. Finland planned to hold a national meeting on follow-up to the World Conference. The Plurinational State of Bolivia was developing a strategic action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples in that country. Denmark noted that, at the national level, priorities for the implementation of the outcome document had been discussed with indigenous representatives. Norway invited the Sami Parliament to assess the challenges remaining in implementing the Declaration and the relationship of those challenges to the outcome document, for future follow-up. Colombia noted that it would continue to implement measures relating to the rights of indigenous peoples, including developing, in 2015, a process for prior consultation with indigenous peoples in matters affecting them and a decree on the recognition of indigenous autonomy.

10. At the international level, several Member States emphasized the importance of including indigenous peoples' rights and priorities in the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with paragraph 37 of the outcome document, in which Member States committed themselves to giving due consideration to all the rights of indigenous peoples in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. In a joint statement presented at the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, States Members of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) emphasized efforts to include indigenous peoples in the current discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, including the sustainable development goals. Several States also referred to the ratification of the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization, which is encouraged in paragraph 6 of the outcome document for those Member States that have not yet done so.

11. Indigenous peoples' representatives and organizations also reported on their own actions in follow-up to the outcome document, which included distributing it among their leadership, constituents and networks as well as to the media and the general public. References were also made to using the outcome document in lobbying efforts with government actors at the national level. Indigenous peoples also reported that they had organized meetings to discuss strategies for implementation, including efforts taken by the United Nations. In that connection, meetings were held[3] to discuss strategies for the implementation of specific paragraphs of the outcome document: paragraph 28, on reviewing the mandates of existing mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, in particular the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and paragraph 33, on enabling the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of United Nations bodies on issues affecting them. At the same time, various indigenous respondents noted that no actions had yet been initiated by their respective indigenous governments, communities or organizations. In that connection, many responses highlighted the need to raise awareness of the outcome document so that measures for follow-up could be carried out.

[3] The meetings included a brainstorming session in Arizona, United States, and an open-ended meeting of indigenous peoples on the follow up to the World Conference, in Geneva (see report at http://statements.unmeetings.org/media2/4657383/iitc.pdf).

12. Requests for technical and other support from the United Nations system to follow up on the outcome document were also highlighted. For example, the Government of El Salvador noted that it hoped to count on the support of the United Nations system in developing a national action plan on indigenous peoples. In addition, representatives from CELAC requested the United Nations to continue to provide support to countries in gathering disaggregated statistical data on indigenous peoples.

III. Update on the development of a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

13. In the outcome document, the Secretary-General was requested to develop a system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration (para. 31). He was asked to do so in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, Member States and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.

14. The Secretary-General was also invited to accord responsibility for coordinating the action plan to an existing senior official of the United Nations system. In October 2014, he appointed the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to take up that responsibility.

15. The various agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations carry out activities that promote respect for the rights of indigenous peoples at the local, national and international levels. Many of those activities relate directly to provisions set out in the outcome document. Several United Nations agencies, funds and programmes also have specific policies and programmes relating to indigenous peoples, including regular consultations with indigenous peoples, to help to guide their work.

16. In accordance with the mandate set out in the outcome document, the system-wide action plan is a tool that will focus on the coherence of the United Nations system. The aim is to facilitate, within existing resources, a consistent system-wide approach to supporting Member States in achieving the ends of the Declaration. The request for an action plan that focuses on coherence recognizes that the United Nations system is already engaged in activities that address the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples. However, the action plan could be improved to ensure greater coherence and coordination, thus preventing duplication. It could also be more strategic and bring together the comparative strengths of the United Nations system, Member States and indigenous peoples, ultimately responding more effectively to the needs of Member States and indigenous peoples. The action plan will enable the United Nations system to deliver as one in working with Member States and indigenous peoples on achieving the ends of the Declaration.

17. In follow-up to the outcome document, the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues has established a working group to begin the development of the system-wide action plan. Since January 2015, the working group has met on a biweekly basis, with the active participation of focal points from United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

18. The development of the action plan involves active, ongoing and consistent consultations with United Nations system entities. The working group is discussing a draft set of guiding principles grounded in the Declaration, and has identified specific action areas that include the following:

(a) Providing support to Governments and State actors for the development and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies or plans to achieve the ends of the Declaration;

(b) Providing support to indigenous peoples to strengthen their participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of national legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to achieve the ends of the Declaration;

(c) Promoting the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations forums as well as consultations with indigenous peoples on United Nations initiatives;

(d) Collecting, disaggregating and disseminating statistics on indigenous peoples;

(e) Implementing capacity-building for United Nations staff with regard to the Declaration and disseminating, and conducting training on, the United Nations Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues.[4]

19. A questionnaire was circulated to request feedback on the draft action areas and, more broadly, on the challenges faced in achieving the ends of the Declaration, as well as what the United Nations system can do to address such challenges. Member States and indigenous peoples' representatives and organizations reacted positively to the key action areas identified. In particular, many responses made special mention of the role of the United Nations in capacity-building and awareness-raising; its provision of technical assistance and other support to Member States for the development of legal policy and administrative measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration; and its ensuring of the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes and activities affecting them.

20. Indigenous peoples' representatives and organizations and Member States also provided proposals for work by the United Nations beyond the preliminary key action areas identified in the questionnaire. For example, a number of indigenous peoples' organizations highlighted the need to monitor the implementation of the Declaration, including with respect to specific situations, especially in the areas of land, territories and resources as well as consultation and consent; promote dialogue between Member States and indigenous peoples to address outstanding issues of concern; and encourage Member States to ratify human rights treaties or to support other relevant human rights instruments. For their part, several Member States raised the need for resource mobilization and improved coordination and non-duplication among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; and the incorporation of a gender perspective and measures to address violence against indigenous women, among other issues.

[4] Following the adoption, in 2007, of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Development Group adopted the Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues in February 2008. The purpose of the Guidelines is to mainstream and integrate indigenous peoples' issues in processes for operational activities and programmes at the country level.

21. In the outcome document, Secretary-General was requested to develop the action plan not only through inter-agency work, but also in cooperation with indigenous peoples and Member States. The main mechanism for consultation has been online, given that the work is to be carried out within existing resources. Consultations in the context of ongoing United Nations events relating to indigenous peoples have also been organized and will continue as work progresses. Further consultations will be carried out when a draft action plan has been developed.

22. The development of the system-wide action plan is a work in progress. The Secretary-General will continue to receive and analyse input from Member States and indigenous peoples throughout the development of the action plan and will seek to take advantage of other opportunities to consult indigenous peoples, including during the sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism. In that regard, the Secretary-General encourages Member States to consult with indigenous peoples on the follow-up to the World Conference.

IV. Use, modify and improve existing United Nations mechanisms to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

A. Background

23. In paragraph 28 of the outcome document of, the Human Rights Council was invited to review the mandates of its existing mechanisms, in particular the Expert Mechanism, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, with a view to modifying and improving the Expert Mechanism so that it could more effectively promote respect for the Declaration, including by better assisting Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the achievement of the ends of the Declaration.

24. While the above-mentioned formulation covers, in principle, all the relevant mechanisms and mandates of the Human Rights Council, including the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the specific focus is on the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism. Established as a subsidiary body in 2007 by the Council, the Expert Mechanism has until now carried out its mandate to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples in the manner and form requested by the Council, mainly in the form of studies and research-based advice.

B. Input received

25. While the work of the Expert Mechanism has been valuable and commended, including by the Human Rights Council, the need to strengthen its work and impact has been widely recognized, as reflected in the outcome document , as well as in the responses received from Member States and indigenous peoples to the questionnaire and during consultations.

26. Several responses received emphasized the expectation of an enhanced mandate to assist Member States in monitoring, evaluating and improving the implementation of the Declaration, in addition to carrying out studies on specific

human rights issues affecting indigenous peoples. It was stressed that a revised mandate should complement those of the Special Rapporteur and the Permanent Forum. Furthermore, be conducted with the effective participation of indigenous peoples.

27. In addition, the responses stressed the need to allocate financial and human resources commensurate with the goals of the revised mandate to enable the Expert Mechanism to carry out its work effectively. Several comments also stressed that, while the mandate of the Expert Mechanism should be expanded, it should remain a unique subsidiary body of the Human Rights Council and that certain elements of its current mandate should be maintained, including the preparation of studies. Several comments also underlined that the sessions of the Expert Mechanism should continue to serve as a space for constructive and interactive dialogue between States and indigenous peoples.

28. The following proposals for specific ways in which the Expert Mechanism could assist Member States to monitor, evaluate and improve the implementation of the Declaration have been put forward by some Member States and indigenous representatives:

(a) Preparing reports on the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide, including through a mechanism that would enable Member States and indigenous peoples to submit information on a voluntary basis;

(b) Assisting Member States in monitoring and evaluating progress and overcoming obstacles to better achieve the ends of the Declaration, including in relation to the implementation of relevant country-specific recommendations concerning indigenous peoples issued by such existing human rights mechanisms as the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and the special procedures Human Rights Council as well as those of the treaty-monitoring bodies;

(c) Supporting Member States and indigenous peoples in the preparation of national strategies and action plans for the implementation of the Declaration, including through country-specific advice;

(d) Engaging actively with the universal periodic review process and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and human rights treaty bodies, as well as playing an active role in assisting States in implementing recommendations regarding indigenous peoples issued by those mechanisms;

(e) Issuing general observations and interpretations regarding the provisions of the Declaration,

(f) Collecting and disseminating information regarding good practices for achieving the ends of the Declaration;

(g) Providing technical assistance and expert advice to Member States, indigenous peoples and the private sector to help them to overcome obstacles to achieving the ends of the Declaration;

(h) Seeking, receiving and considering communications and other information from Member States, indigenous peoples and other sources on matters of concern for the rights affirmed in the Declaration.

29. Some proposals from Member States and indigenous peoples suggested the establishment of a capacity-building function for the Expert Mechanism to assist

States, indigenous peoples national human rights institutions and other relevant bodies in achieving the ends of the Declaration. Such a function would include the facilitation of dialogue as well as the provision of support and advice to improve national legislation and policy with regard to the rights of indigenous peoples, including national action plans and legislative, policy and administrative measures. Furthermore, some respondents suggested the enabling of the Expert Mechanism to send and receive communications on specific cases and to carry out country visits, keeping in mind the need to ensure complementarity with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

30. Proposals regarding the composition of the Expert Mechanism ranged from increasing the number of expert members to involving indigenous peoples more closely in the appointment process. The expertise and qualifications of the candidates is of critical importance in the selection of experts.

C. Recommendations

31. The work of the Expert Mechanism, in providing thematic expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples to the Human Rights Council, has been valuable. It is necessary, however, to strengthen the impact of the work of the Expert Mechanism, especially by taking into account the specific measures that have been put forward by Member States and indigenous representatives (see para. 28).

32. In particular, to better achieve the ends of the Declaration, the Expert Mechanism could be mandated to assist Member States in monitoring and evaluating progress, including in relation to the implementation of relevant thematic and country-specific recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms and bodies concerning indigenous peoples. The modified mandate should also enable the Expert Mechanism to engage in direct communications and constructive dialogue with interested Member States and indigenous peoples, as appropriate.

33. As the Human Rights Council pursues the mandate review and considers various proposals, it is important to continue close engagement with indigenous peoples and to take into account the mandates of the human rights mechanisms, including those of the Special Rapporteur and the Expert Mechanism. Such an inclusive approach will help to avoid unnecessary duplication and will facilitate specific human rights improvements for indigenous peoples, in line with the Declaration and the outcome document.

V. Enabling the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions

A. Background

34. Although indigenous peoples' representatives are able to participate in their own right in United Nations processes relating to indigenous issues, namely the sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism, they often face difficulty in gaining access to other United Nations bodies and processes that do not

explicitly address the issues of indigenous peoples, but can have an impact on their rights. In such key bodies as the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council, indigenous peoples' representative bodies are able to take part in meetings only through non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

35. Indigenous peoples' organizations and some Member States have pointed out that consultative status as a non-governmental organization with the Economic and Social Council is not appropriate for indigenous peoples' representative bodies, many of which have their own government or governance institutions. Furthermore, many indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions are distinct from non-governmental organizations because of their relationship with the peoples and communities that they represent. That relationship has led some Member States to include indigenous representatives in their delegations; however, such inclusion does not address the specific status of indigenous peoples' representative bodies.

36. In recognition of that challenge, the Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States committed themselves, in the outcome document, to considering at the seventieth session of the General Assembly ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, including any specific proposals made by the Secretary-General in response to the request made in paragraph 40 of the outcome document.

37. In 2012, following a request from the Human Rights Council, the Secretary-General submitted a report on ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on issues affecting them (A/HRC/21/24). In addition to providing an overview of current modalities for indigenous peoples' participation in various United Nations bodies, the Secretary-General outlined possible ways forward regarding the development of a procedure to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the United Nations, and highlighted issues for further consideration.

38. The Secretary-General also set out a series of considerations for the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the United Nations, namely:

(a) Criteria for determining the eligibility of indigenous peoples' representatives for accreditation as such;

(b) Nature and membership of the body to determine the eligibility of indigenous peoples' representatives for accreditation;

(c) Details of the process, including the information required to be submitted to obtain accreditation as an indigenous peoples' representative;

(d) Procedures that will make the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives meaningful and effective.

B. Good practices

39. Several current practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation have been identified as good practices by both indigenous peoples and Member States. They include the participation of indigenous peoples during the negotiation of the Declaration and at the sessions of the Permanent

Forum, the Expert Mechanism and the high-level commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, as well as support for the participation of indigenous peoples at those and other United Nations meetings through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

40. Some Member States and indigenous peoples' organizations also commented positively on the modalities for the participation of indigenous peoples in the World Conference. In that process, one Member State representative and one indigenous representative, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, worked together to facilitate discussions on the format and organizational arrangements of the World Conference. In addition, two Member States and two indigenous advisers were appointed to support the President in the preparation of the outcome document. That approach helped to ensure that indigenous peoples could contribute to the process.

41. Other good practices are those that build the capacity of indigenous peoples to engage with the United Nations system, including the Indigenous Fellowship Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

C. Input received

42. Some indigenous peoples' organizations put forward a proposal for the creation of a new category of observer status that would allow indigenous peoples' representative institutions to participate more effectively in the United Nations. According to the proposal, indigenous peoples' representatives would be selected in accordance with their own procedures.

43. The criteria for determining which indigenous peoples' institutions would qualify for such status and the procedures for applying for and granting such status would also need to be addressed. While self-identification has been one of the main criteria for accrediting indigenous peoples' organizations for the sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism, some Member States noted in their replies to the questionnaire that additional requirements for obtaining any new status should be introduced. Some Member States suggested that specific status should be granted to indigenous representatives and institutions that were constitutionally, legally or politically acknowledged in their countries. There are also calls for arrangements to consider granting such status to indigenous peoples' representative bodies that meet certain criteria, while not being legally recognized at the national level.

44. Regarding the process of accreditation of indigenous peoples' representatives and the body that would oversee it, several possibilities were put forward, ranging from a hybrid committee of Member States and indigenous peoples to consider applications, to the formation of a working group of the General Assembly on indigenous peoples' participation.

45. In considering modalities that would better accommodate the specific status of indigenous peoples' representative bodies, it would be useful to draw from positive practices that have been established for other categories of participants in certain contexts. For example, the way in which the Human Rights Council has accommodated the contributions of national human rights institutions in its sessions could inform and inspire future discussions on enhancing indigenous peoples' participation. National human rights institutions that comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of

human rights (the Paris Principles), can, for example, make oral statements under all substantive agenda items and participate through video messages in plenary debates of the Council.

46. In parallel with the consideration of formal arrangements for advancing indigenous peoples' participation, it is important to further develop informal ways of including indigenous peoples in other United Nations processes and enhancing dialogue between indigenous peoples and Member States. Informal briefings and channels can also be helpful in the context of the intergovernmental work of the General Assembly and its main committees. In that context, the proposals that have been made regarding meetings between Committee chairs and civil society and briefings by the President of the Assembly, for example, could also be considered, mutatis mutandis, in relation to indigenous peoples (see, for example, "Report to the President of the Sixtieth General Assembly on the United Nations: the relationship between Member States and civil society, including non-governmental organizations".[5]

D. Proposals

47. The Secretary-General reiterates observations made in his 2012 report on ways and means of promoting participation at the United Nations of indigenous peoples' representatives on issues affecting them (A/HRC/21/24), in which he outlined possible ways forward regarding the development of a procedure to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the United Nations, and issues for further consideration.

48. The Secretary-General encourages Member States to move forward on developing measures to enable the effective participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them, through representatives chosen in accordance with their own procedures.

49. In that process, Member States could look to current practices within the United Nations regarding indigenous peoples' participation that have been identified as good practices by both indigenous peoples and Member States. Member States should draw from positive practices that have been established for other categories of participants in certain contexts, for example, the accommodation of contributions by national human rights institutions in the sessions of the Human Rights Council.

50. As a next step, the President of the General Assembly may wish to consider appointing co-facilitators or advisers, including indigenous representatives, to lead an open-ended consultation process among, inter alia, Member States, indigenous peoples' representatives and existing mechanisms of the United Nations on the possible procedural and institutional steps and selection criteria necessary to enable indigenous peoples' participation at the United Nations. Indigenous peoples should be actively involved in the process of determining their participation, in partnership with Member States, before a procedure is finalized and adopted by United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

[5] Available from www.un.org/ga/president/60/summitfollowup/060707e.pdf.